

GEORGIA *Express Lanes* I-85 MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS COMING JUNE 8 I-85 SOUTH EXPRESS LANE @ SR 316

Lawrenceville, GA - Georgia DOT is improving safety and improving traffic flow along Interstate 85's Express Lane southbound in Lawrenceville by widening the buffer and adding a flex tube barrier between the Express Lane and the General Purpose Lanes. This change is only for I-85 south beginning at the State Route 316 west Express Lane merge to the Old Norcross Road Overpass. Overnight work is scheduled to begin Monday, June 8 if weather permits.

"Safety is our highest priority and we've noticed a safety hazard because of vehicles weaving in and out of the Express Lane southbound between the 316 merge and Old Norcross Road. Such aggressive driving at high speeds is hazardous. We are adding 425 flex tube barriers and widening the buffer area to prevent weaving along this section of the Express Lane. A byproduct will be a more consistent flow of traffic and overall improvement of the Express Lane flow through Lawrenceville," explained Russell McMurry, Georgia DOT Commissioner.

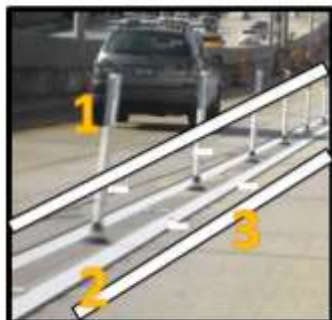
The project will increase the width of buffer between Express Lane and General Purpose lanes from 24 inches to 50 inches using the inside shoulder for the additional width. The lanes will not get smaller. A three feet high, white flex tube barrier with reflective tops will be bolted into the interstate every 10 feet. Additional raised pavement markers and reflective striping will be added in the buffer area. Similar flex tubes are used on interstates in Texas, Virginia and Florida.

The work will occur overnights only closing the Express Lane and the adjacent lane. Sundays through Thursdays overnight work hours are 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the next day. Fridays and Saturdays overnight work hours are 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. the next day.

Peek Pavement Markings of Columbus is the contractor for the 0.89 mile long project on Interstate 85 southbound from the State Route 316 merge to the Old Norcross Road Overpass. The contract cost is \$159,337.50 and the project completion date is June 17, 2015.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For more information about Georgia DOT, visit www.dot.ga.gov or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GDOT) (<https://www.facebook.com/GDOT>) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GeorgiaDeptofTrans) (<https://twitter.com/GeorgiaDeptofTrans>).

Graphic of Express Lane Safety Improvements



1. Adding flex tube barrier with reflective tops
2. Doubling the white reflective striping
3. Adding 3 white raised pavement markers

Overall doubling the area between the Express Lane and adjacent lanes

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